

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for managing an incoming call to a subscriber terminal, said terminal providing access to resources of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and data terminal access to online resources of a packet network, the method comprising:

accessing said packet network to ascertain online network status of the subscriber terminal, said accessing said packet network comprising accessing one of an IP network, an Ethernet, a LAN, and a WAN;

indicating the arrival of an incoming call to the subscriber terminal during online operation of said subscriber terminal by generating a message to said subscriber terminal;

according to subscriber preferences stored in a memory and without action by a user of the subscriber terminal, selecting one of the steps of

(a) forwarding the incoming call to voicemail,

(b) forwarding the incoming call to a forwarding number, and

(c) activating an options selection menu at said subscriber terminal to provide the subscriber with options to handle the incoming call, said options including at least one of forwarding the call to a specific number, handling the call via a VoIP service, and sending the call to voicemail; and

performing the selected one of forwarding the incoming call to voicemail, forwarding the incoming call to the forwarding number, and activating the options selection menu at the subscriber terminal.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the accessing, indicating, and performing steps occurs at one of a local exchange carrier, at a private branch exchange, or at equipment situated on the subscriber's premises.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said preferences include at least one of a call forwarding number, a voicemail directive, and an Internet call waiting directive.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the step of dynamically enabling at least one of said indicating, forwarding, and activating in accordance with an online status of the subscriber.

6. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing comprises:
extracting subscriber preference information from a network database, and
executing at least one call handling step in accordance with said subscriber preferences.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said generating a message to said subscriber terminal comprises generating a message directing the display of a notice viewable on a display monitor associated with said subscriber terminal.